



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 2, 2004

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**FUGITIVE DOCTOR DIPAK PATEL SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA FOR HEALTH CARE FRAUD**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that **Dr. Dippakumar "Dipak" Patel** was sentenced for conspiracy to commit health care fraud, health care fraud and 45 counts of mail fraud. Yesterday, Judge W. Royal Furgeson sentenced Dr. Patel to 121 months in federal prison, three years supervised release, restitution of \$8,381,878 and \$4,500 in special assessments.

Defendant Patel was present for the April 2003 jury selection, but failed to appear for trial. He is currently a fugitive from justice and was tried and sentenced in absentia.

At trial, the government showed that Patel fraudulently attempted to secure \$40 million from insurance companies. The actual loss was \$8.3 million, with \$7.7 million coming from taxpayer funded programs. Defendant Patel would have had to have worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week in order to have legitimately performed the work for which he billed during one seven-month period. Patel also "upcoded" his diagnoses in order to support unnecessary testing and treatment. Medical experts testified that this unnecessary treatment could have endangered his patients.

**U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton** stated, "The vast majority of health care providers are dedicated and honest, unfortunately there are a few like Dr. Patel who seek to fraudulently enrich themselves from taxpayer funded programs like Medicare and Medicaid that are designed to help the poor and elderly. Today's sentence of over 10 years in federal prison is just and fair considering the facts and circumstances in this case."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, The U.S. Office of Personnel Management - Inspector General, Texas Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Defense Criminal Investigation Service. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Roomberg.

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